VESTERN HERO WITH THE TOP RIDERS OF THE GOLDEN WEST



WESTERN HERO A Percent Publication

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MONTE HALE and his PEACE BOND

also: YOUNG FALCON AND A HOST OF YOUR FAVORITE WESTERN SHORT FEATURES!













WESTERN HERO WONDER! THEY DID WHERE DO YOU THINK IN MY GENERA H A 6000 JOB, ONLY DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THIS COUNTERFEIT MONEY BILLS, HOPALONG? AND THE REAL THING ! KE'S RIGHT, TAD! THAT'S WHY I THINK MEANWHILE, IN THE TWIN RIVER HILLS ---HESE PHONY BILLS NO YOKEL WILL EVER CATCH ON BOSS IM THE BEST COUNTERPETTER N THE COUNTRY HOPALONG A ERE'S ANOTHER BATT CRTLY AFTER---ETO HAVE A I IF I'M NOT OUND OF MISTAKEN, PINSERS LARSEN A LOTTA LITTLE TH YOU CAN GIT THE OPINE YOU BETTER



WESTERN HERO I'M BORRY, TOO, HOPALONS!

















TO ACCEPT OF THE OPENING THE O



















WESTERN HERO



WESTERN HERO O YOUR FEET! I THANKS FOR SAVING ME SKUNK LIKE YOU WHEN HE'S DOWN !





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THE KEY FOR



























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WESTERN HERO THAR'S A GROUP OF US HOME E OF THE DELIGHTS A WUZ ME IF YOU STEADERS WHO HAVE STAKED
OUT OUR FARMS ON THIS
PARCEL OF LAND, THE
CLAIMS WERE GIVEN US BY THE GOVERNMI BOUT IT BULL DRISCOLL RUNS THE LAZY Y RANCH! DRISCOLL USED TO LET HIS CATTLE SRAZE ON THE GOVERNMEN LAND! NOW HE INSISTS ON THE RIGHT TO KEEP DOING IT! JIM / TROUBLE'S GRAZING CATTLE BREWING IF THEY'RE LOOKING RECKON I'LL MOSEY FRE COME THE DRISCOLL'S TURNED FER TROUBLE. IS WHOLE HERD LOOSE ALONG WITH Y HOMESTEADERS ACE RANDALL KNOW A CHESTFUL



















WESTERN HERO

















ID THE SECOND MASKED RIDER SOON FOLLOWS...







CAPTIVE HERD

A RED ROAN Adventure

By Dick Kraus

OVER THE SUN-PARCHED prairie,

That very morning, he had been the leader of a herd of fifty wild horses. Fifty shaggy-coated mares and spindly-legged colts that had followed him unquestioningly and to whom he was kine!

Then a band of hard-riding cowboys had surprised the herd in a sudden ambush. Larlats swishing through the air, they had rounded up all of the animals, driving them into an improvised corral. Only Red Roan had managed to escape, fleeing with great strides to the safety of the nearby hills. There he galloped by himself, long scales mane floating in the breeze.

when the first panic passed, Red Roan turned again toward the prairie. Slowly, he trotted down toward the plain, keen dark eyes searching for his herd.

At last he saw a cloud of dust, miles away on the range. It was the captive herd. Already the cowboys were driving them away, taking them from their wild, free existence, to a life of drudgery and pain. Red Roan's hooves pounded, as he raced over the range toward the distant dust cloud.

Soon he was close enough to see his herd, moving close-packed along a broad trail. But, riding on all sides of the wild horses were sharp-eyed cowboys, their sinewy hands gripping lariats. If Red Roan were to come any closer, he would risk capture himself!

"It is better to wait . . . to follow at a distance . . ." the stallion's thoughts ran. "Perhaps there will come a chance . . ."

But all through the afternoon Red Roan followed the herd without an opportunity presenting itself... a chance for him to attempt to free the other wild horses. At one point the cowboys herded their captives across a broad, shallow stream. But so closely did they guard them that Red Roan was unable to do more than follow at a distance.

Night came, and the cowboys built a camp. Throughout the dark, still hours, Red Roan cropped grass near their twin-

When dawn came and the herd started off again, the roan stallion took up the slow pursuit, half a mile behind. He had

the impulse to dash in suddenly, attempting to stampede and scatter the herd. But the risk would be too great, reason told him. If he were captured, surely none of the others would escape.

As the sun rose higher and higher, the herd continued to trot along the phlin.

But now the air became strangely still.

A great mass of dark clouds formed menacingly in the skies. All wind ceased, save
for a vagrant brease that turned up the
undersides of the cottonwood leaves. Darker and darker it grew, as the anxious cowboys scanned the sky.

66TBHAR'S a storm blowin' un!" one of

them shouted. "An' it looks like a sidewinder! Better pull up the herd an' make camp!"

There was a distant, ominous rumble of thunder.

"Hurry!" the cowboy shouted again, "Git 'em all together, afore they git panicked an' try to run for it!"

Quickly, the cowboys rode among the wind horse, driving them together, trying to soothe them with their voices. But then the first drops began to fall—great, spattering drops that heraided a mighty storm. The rain began to come down in earnest, leahing the parisi egrass, and beating heavily against the backs of the trembling mates and cold.

Unheeding, Red Roan came closer, watching the nervous herd. There was a chance . . .

"CCC-RR-AAA-CC-KKI"

WITH an ear-splitting concussion, a tremendous rumble of thunder shook the earth. Split seconds later, the heavens seemed to explode, as a glaring streak of lightning appeared. The colts whinnied in terror, and sought shelter against their mothers' sides. But again the thunder rumbled, and now the rain poured down, more heavily than ever.

It was all the cowboys could do to keep their own mounts under control. Between the lashing rain, and the sheer fury of the elements, all nature seemed to have gone berserk.

Seeing this, Red Roan determined to

Raising his great head, cars pricked forward, he whinnied once, loud and clear. The sound pierced even the noise of the tempest. Every mare heard it and recognized it as the voice of her master. Again he whinnied louder, and then, galvanized

into action, he galloped toward the herd.

In a moment, he was among them, hooves beating the ground, a brilliant gleam of color in the darkness of the storm. His shrill cry was a challenge, and an order!

"Follow me to safety!"

Scarcely had he sped through the herd, than every wild horse had obeyed his imperious command. Swiftly they scattered, evading the cowboys who were riding herd on them. Then, seeing Red Roan racing away from them toward the hills, they followed him. While the bewildered cowboys tried desperately to quirt their terrified, panicky horses to the pursuit, Red Roan gathered his herd belind his herd belind in

The suddenness of his move caught the cowboys by surprise. It was a full three minutes before they could take up the chase in the terrible downpour.

In that three minutes, the crimson stallion had led his fleeling herd to the edge of the broad stream he had crossed but a short time before. Now it was a deeper, more turbulent river, its waters fed by the mighty rain. Red Roan hesitated for a moment. But he knew that the cowboys would be coming up swiftly behind the herd. There was no time to waste.

He whinnied once, and plunged into the

At his example, the herd followed him, alipping down the steep, clay-banked edges of the river, fighting their way against the current. The waves beat at them, eatching them and twisting them about helplessly, But still they lought on, the urge to freedom great within their hearts. Now Red Roam was halfway across and the herd was close behind him!

Actively moments, this waves were growing more powerful, and the waters deeper. But there was no cowardice, no hangle back. When a cold disappeared under the surface, momentarily beaten by the force of the current, an older horse helped him, thrust him on. Legs falling, nostrils fighting for breath, heads straining, the wild horses battled their way toward the opposite shore.

One by one, they reached it, Chesta heaving with the mighty effort, they scrambled up the bank to where Red Roan was walting for them. One by one they came, until all had crossed the river safely.

Without a moment's pause, the red stallion wheeled about and led his herd away from the river toward the mountains that were much closer now. But in heart=Red Roan was worried. He knew that the cowboys had taken up the pursuit, that even now they must be galloping after the herd. Was secane possible?

THE ANSWER lay in the fury of the gale, in the water that was cascading down from the skies. For when the first cowboy reached the river, the torrent had swelled to such an extent that it was completely impassible. It would have been suicide to attempt to cross it.

The cowboy rested in his saddle, hunching his shoulders against the furious rain. He peered through the slanting drops, saw the distant horses trotting up toward the hills. There was no one there to hear him, but he spoke away.

"Good luck, Red," he said. "This time, you earned the right to keep 'em. Good luck!"

THE END

A RED ROAN adventure appears in every issue of WESTERN HERO!

















A POSSE... COWHANDS ALL WORKING... AN' NOW THAT WE TOOK THIS PECE OF HORSE-PLECH, THAR AIN'! A SINGLE HORSE IN TOWN! SO HOW CAN ANSODY COME AFTER US!





MEANWHILE ...















HEY, LOOK! CLOUD OF





HUH! YO'RE















WESTERN HERO O'S THERE ? SPEAK, IF UT INSTANTLY, A SCREAM NG INTO THE DENSE THICKET, YOUNG FALCON FINDS A MAY THE GODS OF LUCK BE WITH ME/THESE WILD BOARS ARE KILLERS, WITH HIDE LIKE THE BARK OF ATREE! SHE SCREAMS HE ENRAGED WILD BOAR WHIRLS N PAN AND SURPRISE, TOSSING WING FALCON FROM HIM















NSAT DEEPENS OVER THE WOOD'S TANDS GLICAN STANDS GLICAN STANDS GLICAN STANDS GLICAN STANDS GLICAN SHAPP WONDERS. WHO IS SHE ALONE IN THE WILDS F. LOCK FOX THE ANSWERD IN A PETILIZE MOST CONTINUED TO MALE SHEY MONTH-ONLY

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WESTERN HERO O BETTER KEEP YOUR EYES MAYBE NOT, BUT JUST THE SAME I'M GOING TO STAY GLOSE TO YOU TILL THOSE THREE ARE THAR'S NOTHING EVER! HAT EVENING ... OUT HERE IN THE WILDERNESS ANYTHING CAN HAPPEN WITH THE BECAUSE IT'S SO NICE AND YUH MAKE ME PEEL LIKE A LITTLE SCHOOLBOY, SEEING ME HOME, PEACEFUL IN BUTLER BROTHERS OF THE LOOSE WHY OO YOU LIVE SO FAR FROM TOWN THIS VALLEY! AS SOON AS THEY CLOSE THE OOOR WE KIN START TE TO EAT WITH I "HERE IS WHAR I WANT TO DIE MIKE ODESN'T REALIZE HOW PROPHETIC HIS WORDS ARE

WESTERN HERO















































WESTERN HERO M NOT IMAGINING ANYTHING! SNAPPED OUT OF HIS FROM ME RIGHT VALLEY! THE WATER'LL BE STATE MIKE SHAW SHOULI BE DROWNING LIKE A RAT BY NOW! CLOUT! LATER. RIGHT NOW I'VE GOT TO CLOSE THE DAM GATE AND SEE WHAT I CAN TO ABOUT SAVING TOO LATE!







the woods, when soon computer tracks, Alvays were fill the great with DAD! You be no geter...tell others bow to g





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